GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2244
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
FIRE IN FIELDS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of setting fire in the fields after harvesting is prevalent in several States as reported in the Tribune dated 2nd May, 2008;

(b) if so, whether such fires lead to loss of soil fertility apart from causing heavy damage to human lives and property and polluting the air; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken to ban such a harmful practice?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir, particularly in rice-wheat cropping system in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.

(b): The burning of crop residues leads to loss of precious organic carbon and many essential plant nutrients contained in the residues. The burning also causes air population due to emission of CO2, NO2, SO2 and particulate matter etc. that may cause human health hazards.

(c): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) advocates recycling of residues either through incorporation into the soils or composting/vermi-composting. To minimize the burning of crop residues and facilitate their incorporation in the soil for decomposition so as to enhance the organic matter content, the resource conservation technologies like zero-tillage and rotavators are promoted under centrally sponsored schemes viz., National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Macro-Management Mode of Schemes.